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Ramona, Calif.

CALIFORNIA GARDEN



In This Number

Roses in Shade By J. Horace McFarland

The Fall Flower Show By K. O. Sessions

Sophora Secundiflora By P. D. Barnhart

SEPTEMBER 1933

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SHOPPING NEWS PRINTING CO., Ltd.

215 B Street

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San Diego, Calif.

The California Garden

Published Monthly by the San Diego Floral Association
One Dollar per Year, Ten Cents per Copy

Vol. 25

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, SEPTEMBER, 1933

No. 3

Roses In Shade

By J. Horace McFarland

Many times in these papers I have referred to the seeming desirability of some shade and some shelter for roses. Constantly attention has been called to the misfortune of following the old English ideals, very necessary in a land with less sunshine and more moisture than we have. It seems to have been hard to give up these old ideas involving the impracticability of planting roses in the open with a full circulation of air, and at the same time providing some form of shelter against rough winds.

At Breeze Hill, which, after twenty-four years of steadily increasing attention, has become an important trial ground, not only for roses but for many other plants, and which is right now serving as a filter to screen out poor things and useless ideas, we have for many years found that shade and shelter did help many roses. I am writing these words, months ahead of their publication, in the very heat and heart

of the great rose season which bewilders one with the profusion of fine flowers this remarkable season has provided. There is opportunity for the fullest comparison as to the effects of shade and shelter, and my assistant, Mr. Stevens, joins with me in a strong desire to replant the Breeze Hill Garden so that without destroying its vistas and its effect of rose sumptuousness, we can give our petted plants what they need.

Some four years ago an experiment began by planting roses on both sides of a long grass walk sheltered by fine plants of *Taxus cuspidata*, *Abies concolor*, *Pseudotsuga taxifolia*, and a half-dozen of the best Mock-Oranges, to say nothing of a tall holly, the prosperity of which in this shelter is a constant delight to see. To make the trial definite, we planted in the scanty open spaces on the border edge of this long and beautiful walk, roses that were "hard doers," like *William F. Dreer* and *Angele Pernet*, and so on. Also, to be square with the situation, good plants of *Etoile de Hollande* were put right up against one sturdy specimen of *Taxus cuspidata*, the Japanese Yew. Mrs. *Charles Bell* and a dozen others of ordinary sturdy character were planted where we could find room for them.

The result has been a constant and recurring delight. That great *Etoile de Hollande*, which goes four feet high against the Japanese Yew, has more than once bloomed its flowers right in the edge of the young and lovely foliage of the evergreen. These same flowers are about twice the size of those grown in the full open, and are in no sense bleached out by the protection. Three times I have had to cut back the yew to give room for the rose plant!

All the other varieties have prospered. At the northwest corner of this border there is our original plantation of the wonderfully pleasing

EDITOR'S NOTE

The May number of the California Garden carried an article by Mr. Clarence G. White of Redlands on growing roses in shade. The editor has for some time been cognizant of the fact that Mr. J. Horace McFarland of Pennsylvania, editor of the American Rose Annual and president of the American Rose Society, has been experimenting with and advocating some shade for some roses. The following article by Mr. McFarland appearing in the August issue of "Flower Grower" is therefore submitted as a sequel to Mr. White's article and offers the readers an excellent opportunity to compare results east and west. It is hoped that the inspiration of these two fine articles by two eminently successful rosarians will serve the purpose expressed in Mr. McFarland's closing words, "broaden the rose horizon."

ground cover, *Anchusa myosotidiflora*, the forget-me-not flowers of which are followed by great heart-shaped leaves that last all summer. Right in the edge of this was planted *Angele Pernet*, which we had never been able to do anything with in the open. I have seen within a week lovely buds of this shy rose right among the *Anchusa* foliage.

I do not believe it will be possible to make roses succeed under trees where no sunlight enters and where the ground is occupied by a multitude of fibrous roots, such as those provided by the maples, the elm, the horse chestnut. Many other of the shade trees and all of the shrubs I know anything about, including Mock Oranges, Lilacs, and the like, seem to provide just the shelter and shade the roses like.

I have been believing that the roses can stand fifty per cent of shade. I suspect I am wrong, and that they will stand more shade than that. Under a great Horse-chestnut tree which shades the western side of the Breeze Hill home there is a bank which for years was a despair to me because I could not get grass, or even *Vinca minor*, to grow there. The space is now completely and beautifully covered winter and summer by *pachysandra terminalis*, which seems to hold its own against the Horse-chestnut roots, with occasional restoration of spots where the roots have eaten their way through. At the southern end of this bank there is a walk to the kitchen. It is just outside the root radius. Here, in what is at least seventy per cent shade, I put a plant of the hardy and foliage-persistent *Max Graf*, a curious hybrid which seldom raises its shoots higher than eighteen inches. The day I write these words this superb plant is starred with its very large and lovely single pink flowers, and I have observed with delight that long shoots of the Rose have worked through into the *Pachysandra*, so that here and there its green is punctuated by the beautiful pink flowers. Here, then, is an example of more shade endured by one Rose.

For years I have had *Rosa hugonis*, *R. altaica*, and several other of the species Roses, almost under the shade of a vigorous mulberry tree. They have bloomed satisfactorily. Not far from them is a magnificent plant of the Penzance hybrid, *Meg Merrilies*, which backs up against a cherry tree that keeps off the morning sun, and indeed more than half of the day's provision of sunlight. It is madly blooming right now in lovely profusion.

I hope I have said enough to start my friends toward the use of corners in the shrubbery, of

places in the border and of odds and ends about the home where Roses can do their beautiful best in some shade and some shelter. It will be observed that I do not set any limits, because I do not know what the Rose will stand. I do insist, however, that wherever they be planted the ground be made fine and fertile so that the Rose has a chance to go ahead, particularly in the early spring before deciduous foliage shades it.

In the same urgency I place the polyantha Roses, which ought to be in many hardy borders that run bare during some part of the blooming season. In these places good plants of *Le Marne*, or *Chatillon*, or *Eblouissant*, or other of the dwarf polyanthas, will introduce color and delight. While I am at it, let me mention that the two Poulsen varieties, *Else Poulsen* and *Kirsten Poulsen*, of taller growth, will make just about the finest hedge possible to conceive.

All this story is to urge the broadening of the rose horizon. The Rose is the most adaptable of woody plants, and many thousands of gardens can be illuminated and enriched by it.

THE FALL FLOWER SHOW

The 27th Annual Flower Show held August 26th and 27th was a decided surprise to all the workers, for its development surpassed their anticipations, and every visitor decided it was the best ever staged in the fall. Color was rampant and the finest quality was conspicuous in every exhibit; the favorable weather kept every blossom perfect. The large number of individual exhibitors was most encouraging as well as the number of new exhibitors proved to the San Diego Floral Association that its effort for flowers and gardens in and about San Diego is worthwhile and appreciated. A visitor from the Arnold Arboretum said enthusiastically that Boston could not equal such a show of quality dahlias. The size, variety and quantity of flowers was very fine, outshining the zinnias in color and the marigolds were quite in the background. One exhibitor explained that seed developed here is much prized by Eastern growers, and the seed of one variety yields fifty sports. The Pompom dahlias were fine, and deserve more general home cultivation. One criticism that may be suggested is that more medium sized flowers and those the type of Little Jewel, will make better cut flowers for the home and the florist than the immense sized ones which demand large and suitable vases and great occasions for

their use. The wonderful variety of colors obtained in the dahlias and their increasing hybrids give the great charm to their general culture, also varieties that may flower through a longer or later season. Mr. E. J. Campbell's display for variety, quality, new seedlings and perfect staging was exceptionally fine.

The aster display was more variable than ever before. The new small singles were particularly conspicuous and lent themselves to basket and vase arrangements with great charm. This flower is one of the very best for the home garden for cutting.

Zinnias were extra fine and varied in colors and sizes. The larger ones are none too large, and their lateness of bloom and good keeping quality makes them a superior home garden flower.

The dish gardens of succulents and cacti and miniature gardens was a real feature in variety and quality, and superior to any previous display, and have won a place for themselves in every home for the porch and patio.

The larger displays of succulents for the rock garden, and rock garden structures were well presented by three firms and won much appreciation. The cactus did not appear in this show. It realized it could not complete in color and so, wisely, stayed at home.

Four nurseries made displays of general stock, each of which contained some new and attractive feature, and were well set up, but there is a need of special displays by each of some novelty, and also a need of more and good labeling. Labeling may not add to the beauty of a display, but it certainly is the best educational feature of every display and helps to prove the fact that San Diego is yearly becoming better known for its horticultural life and interesting and beautiful home gardens. The Arnold Arboretum visitor remarked of two good displays that they would be disqualified in a Boston show, being devoid of labels.

The Coleus display was far above previous years. One display grown from seed planted this year was quite remarkable for the size of many of the plants, the variety of the foliage and the good quality.

The shadow boxes of still life subjects were very interesting and won several ribbons of special merit besides the first and second prizes. Most of the boxes are too small for artistic results.

The begonia display by three firms was the largest ever and quality extra fine, including

some pretty hanging baskets. All the potted or boxed plants in greatest perfection, and the Rex begonias simply superb and in vigorous growth. To deliver and stage such large flowering plants requires great care and effort.

There were too excellent displays of cut roses in perfection of bloom, not entered for competition. The novel staging of on display in the form of a miniature garden, was an excellent piece of work, the vases being bamboo stems colored brown that represented the mature stem of the flowering plant. Such original ideas have real value and great charm.

The display of the Gerberas from Encinitas was finer than the one of the spring show, and proved the necessity of their more general culture. Loose soil and water are their requirements. The strain exhibited is known as the Gibson Hybrids, originated some ten years ago. The original plants from South Africa bore a bright red flower and the variations of color are today really marvelous—all shades of pink, yellows, reds and white.

The floral arrangements in baskets, dishes and vases was excellent and deserves more and more attention each year, for they are real lessons in artistic beauty of the home and many special occasions. For the first time colors were predominating. Shades of blues, pink, yellows and reds and white are good features. More blue flowers must be cultivated and asked for in the premium lists in the future.

The one outstanding exhibit of the show, the judges awarded the prize to the Naval Training Station display. Without question it was the best exhibit ever made by any institution in any previous show. If naval students are trained to be good gardeners will they not be more useful than fighting seamen?

The central decorative feature opposite the entrance arranged by the Park Department was well done with choice palms, ferns and a large bunch of Egyptian lotus buds and flowers.

One table held a large collection of cut flowering shrubs in bloom and the clematis paniculata was much admired. Another plant that was interesting but without a label was the *Statice Caspia*. Many asked for its name.

The display of tropical fruits from Encinitas was a valuable asset, and samples of well developed fruit was beside the plants. An attractive display of *Arenaria* as used for a lawn that requires sun but no cutting was an interesting exhibit also from Encinitas.

Mr. J. W. Elliott of Point Loma sent in two large flower heads of a most interesting ginger

plant from Honolulu. It grows as a six-foot clump and six feet tall in the open sun.

A petunia display showed fifty varieties from a La Jolla garden.

The Park decorated the walls with the tallest bamboos ever used and in one corner, among their branches a collection of attractive small bird houses were displayed. This feature should be repeated at each show.

Late in the afternoon of the last day many of the choicest specimens of flowers were sold, the remainder, as is customary, were sent to a hospital.

K. O. SESSIONS.

SOPHORA SECUNDIFLORA

It is no great stretch of imagination to call this evergreen shrub, Evergreen Wistaria. I first met with it at a Santa Barbara flower show three years ago. The flowers are violet-blue, delightfully fragrant. They were so intriguing that I wrote about them in Florists' Exchange. A florist in San Antonio saw the article and wanted to know whether seed would be acceptable. Of course I said yes. Immediately he sent me a pound. They are bright red, about the size of a small hazelnut, and as hard as marbles. I gave those seed to Herbert George, propagator for Beverly Hills Nursery, and out of the lot he got 15 or 20 plants. Last April I met with two plants in full bloom at Boyce Thompson Arboretum in Arizona. They were things of beauty, and should be found in every collection of shrubs in this Southland. If readers of these lines are inspired to inquire the price of plants at the nursery, don't haggle over the price if they ask a dollar each, but be thankful to get them at that price. Furthermore, give them room for development, even if some Privets and Cotoneasters have to be dug up and consigned to the brush pile. Another thing those people have which I never met with at any other nursery:

Tagetes Lucida

an herbaceous Marigold. The flowers are diminutive in size, 2 and 3 rays, borne in dense terminal corymbs, and fragrant. It is worthy a place in any Herbaceous border, in any garden of this Southland.

Hypericum Repens

is another desirable plant for rockeries, or borders for beds. This, too, I have not met with anywhere else than in the nursery above referred to.

We are prone to discuss the mysteries of life. One of those mysteries is that nurserymen of

this state seldom, if ever, advertise the rare things they grow, then wonder why there is no demand for novelties, and howl if trade is dull, when as a matter of fact they have no one to blame but themselves. Lovers of plant life are always on the lookout for things new, and are willing to experiment, no matter what the cost, even in these days of economic chaos. A liberal use of space in California Garden would be a profitable investment for nurserymen, and put the periodical on a firmer financial basis. Should any nurseryman act on this suggestion my advice is "put as much thought in the advertisement as you do to produce the plants." As a rule, commercial growers of plants use the same stereotyped advertisement month after month, year in and year out, world without end, and when they pay the bill say "Another *contribution* to keep your publication going."

P. D. B.

The very name Patio has a fascination in itself. It suggests tropical beauties hidden by tantalizing walls, the happy home of a family, a place to welcome friends, flowers, birds, quiet pools nestling amid ferns and cradling lilies on their tranquil waters.

This the imagination suggests, but only a vivid imagination could conceive the beauty of the Patio of the Kenderine home on Sunset Cliffs.

It began with a flower bed back of the house, a fishpond of the usual type and a broad expanse of concrete which was the approach to the garage. The flower bed was pretty, but the ocean winds whipped the plants to shreds; the fishpond was obviously an artificial fishpond; the concrete was a hopeless eyesore. Hopeless, did I say? To some perhaps, but not to the owners of the place. Where there's a vision and a will, there's a way, and in this case the way led first to tearing out the concrete and opening the garage doors in the opposite direction, thus leaving the space clear to work out the visions of the owners and their assistant. Then came the encompassing walls. Rocks were brought from Old Mexico—volcanic rock, grey with lichens and moss. These were piled as though nature herself had done the work, forming grottoes and banks. Next came thin slabs from the old sea beds of Southern Utah still bearing on their surfaces the imprint of the algae that had lived in those seas of long ago. These were used as stepping stones and steps, a desecration almost it would seem, and

we step gently so as not to deface the beautiful imprints.

Then the tile of modern workers—soft in tone—which forms an inconspicuous floor for the Patio and a background for the brilliant Spanish colors of the fountain against the north wall.

Ready now for the planting—wall to be covered, corners to be filled, sheltered spots, rocky banks, marshy edges, blazing sunshine, cool shade—and all the world to draw from. Such a chance for an artist! The walls must have bougainvillias, the red ones that do not clash with other colors, climbing roses, bignonias, golden broom. Then there were soft yellow flowered acacias for the corners; bamboos made a verdant screen for the house. Delicate maidenhair ferns, begonias, impatiens, fuschias found footing on the grotto walls; wild iris, papyrus, callas and coleus soon made themselves at home around the pool; columbines peeped out from under ferns that spread their fronds with tropical luxuriance; the multitude of succulents began to scatter their brilliant gems in every crevice and corner. Humming birds found sanctuary in this retreat and our winged flowers, the butterflies, add their gentle beauty.

The Patio—a cloister for all that lives there, a place of peace for all who are welcomed within its portals.

W. B. K.

ORCHIDS

Suppose that after seven years of careful nursing, diet, supervision and temperature regulation, you found that the baby wasn't worth keeping, and had to be thrown away? That's what happens to people who grow baby orchids. For it takes seven years of special feeding, repotting and constant surveillance before a new species blooms and its creator may pass judgment on it.

At his extensive hot houses at Larkspur on the beautiful Marin county shore of San Francisco Bay, George Niven, who is continuing the work of his father, James Niven, pioneer grower of exotic flowers, explained the tedious and often delicate process of developing a new variety of the flower which delights the debutante's heart.

"It used to take a lot of monkey business to create a new variety," Niven declared. "In fact, we had to depend upon the monkeys, birds and storms in the tropics to carry the powder-like orchid seed from one plant to another. In this way new crosses or hybrids were constantly created. But a few years ago a

professor at Cornell discovered that a culture made of sugar, agar-agar and certain chemicals produced a favorable condition for the germination and growth of seedlings. So now, orchids have become "bottle babies" and are raised in sealed flasks which are kept bacteria free.

These lovely flowers, which have erroneously been called "parasites," are for the most part epiphytes, or "air plants," and attach themselves to the limbs of trees not for nourishment, but for support. They derive their food entirely from the warm, moist atmosphere, which in their native habitat is heavily laden with decaying animal and vegetable matter.

In the commercial hot houses they are grown in pots filled with moss, or suspended from the roof in loosely woven baskets, through which the roots creep out into the vital, life-giving air. But at the ninth annual California Flower Festival, which will be held in San Leandro this September, the natural setting of these aristocrats of all flowers, will be reproduced in every detail. The largest and most spectacular orchid display ever to be seen in the West will be a feature of the show which will run from September 14 to 17. One hundred and fifty square feet will be given over to this lavish exhibit and orchid growers from all over the state plan to participate. It is for this feature of the show that Mr. Niven is growing an orchid valued at \$10,000. Five hundred dollars is not an unusual figure for a good hybrid and it is for such plants that the growers give seven years of attention to a new seedling before they have any idea of what the blossom will be like.

Most of the stock comes originally from Colombia, Venezuela and other parts of South America, but the lovely blue Vanda, which is grown commercially on a block of wood, rather than in a hanging basket, claims India and Burma as its native land. Australia also furnishes many of the better known varieties of Cymbidiums or "boat-shaped orchids," although the danger of introducing insects and plant diseases from the tropical countries into American horticulture discourages wholesale importation of many of the species.

For this reason growers in this country are creating their own varieties, and although seven years are required to produce the first blossoms from the minute seed, what woman, as she pins the lovely flower upon her shoulder, feels that the effort has in any way been wasted?

The California Garden

Editor
Silas B. Osborn

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY

The San Diego Floral Association

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
P. O. Box 323 San Diego, Cal.

Main Office, San Diego, California

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Entered as second-class matter December 8, 1910, at the Post office at Point Loma, California, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

California Garden is on the list of publications authorized by the San Diego Retail Merchants Association.


MONTHLY ADVERTISING RATES

One Page	\$10.00	Half Page	\$5.00
Quarter Page	2.50	Eighth Page	1.50

Advertising Copy should be in by the 1st of each Month

Subscription to Magazine, \$1.00 per year; Membership \$1.50 per year; Magazine and Membership combined \$2.00 per year.

Meeting held third Tuesday of each month at Floral Building in Balboa Park.

Shopping News Ptg. Co.  215 B Street, San Diego

NEWS OF THE MONTH

The fall flower show of the Association from the standpoint of quality and quantity of exhibits staged was probably the finest fall show San Diego has had. Due to the ideal weather, dahlias were present in an embarrassing abundance, embarrassing from the necessity of supplying vases and space. Other seasonable flowers were equally fine and abundant. The shadow box entries were remarkably fine and demonstrated a distinct advance in interest and the technique of building them by exhibitors. The show lacked a finishing touch, however that touch being the scurrying hither and yon of our president, Mrs. Mary Greer, trying to appease the multifold demands of the exhibitors and gathering up the threads of those small details so indispensable to a finished show. Mrs. Greer unfortunately was confined to home by an illness, aggravated by her attempts to carry on her work with the show regardless of her

physical condition. Her many friends wish her a rapid recovery.

The final judging of the San Diego Garden Contest was made on Thursday, August 31st. The results appear elsewhere in this issue. The Garden Contest was rather unsatisfactory from the standpoint of the number of entries particularly in the smaller gardens. Not more than a half of dozen small gardens were entered. The number should be greatly increased another year if interest in this contest is to be sustained.

We have at hand the first catalogue of the "Evans Gardens". It is filled with plant rarities from all parts of the world practically unobtainable elsewhere. At least to obtain them one would have to go through the rigmarole of special import permits and all the attendant aggravations of obtaining plants from foreign countries. Hugh Evans has for many years ridden hard his hobby of rare plants and his catalogue reflects his experiences with them. Our interest was aroused by a casual reading of it that revealed several new colors in bougainvillas we were unfamiliar with.

MORE ABOUT IRIS

My Dear Osborn;

The reprint in "California Garden" about iris at Hemet interested me in two ways, that there should be so large a planting there, and that the writer should think he had stumbled on a new culture, instead of a rediscovery. Much of the talk about any garden procedure is just a parroting of something that somebody has proclaimed with loud authority long ago and without sufficient evidence.

About all that can be said for such pronouncement is that it is usually as safe as it is uninspired. One cannot even tell many people to use plenty of water on a plant without enthusing somebody to think that plenty means enough to drown it. So hoary dictum has its uses as well as abuses, I suppose.

That iris will not stand shade, water in summer, fertilizer and manure, these statements are not commonly believed by experienced growers. Dr. Berry, a noted breeder of iris, has grown them in shade for fourteen years to my knowledge. Prof. Essig, another breeder, uses tons of manure before planting. Salbach, an iris merchant at Berkeley, tells me that chicken manure is wonderful, and I have seen Dr. Berry use it just before planting, a way I would not use any strong plant food on anything. But the proof that iris are not tem-

peramental to chemicals, at least to raw acid phosphate is that it has for years been used heavily in direct contact with rhizomes in fighting root rot.

I need not quote to you my own heavy fertilizing and my shading nor my success.

Another iris mis-statement that yearly appears in the horticultural press is that an iris rhizome should be planted in the soil "like a duck riding on the water." This ducky phrase has ruined many an iris clump, for the new roots upon which the vigor of the plant depends have to grow near the neck of the rhizome and if that is above ground, the result is evident. Very shallow planting may or may not be urgent, but the plant needs many roots for best results.

Misinformation will be rampant so long as society reporters are sent to yacht races, uneducated laymen to report the words of scientists, and there exists a belief that a ready pen, or tongue and native wit is all the contact needed between wisdom and ignorance.

A long time ago, I was told on good authority that a certain publishing house thought that a cheap series of books on gardening and plants would be a good thing. They collected written works, turned them over to a bunch of stenogs and told them to "go to it." What they evolved was not even good fiction.

Well, I started out to write you that the Hemitites are to be congratulated on the use of their eyes and thinking caps, but their Homer was not well informed as to what has been done elsewhere.

And look what I have gone and gone!

Yours,

CLARENCE G. WHITE.

SEPTEMBER WEATHER IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY

Dean Blake, Weather Bureau

Since the establishment of the Weather Bureau station in San Diego in October, 1871, there have been 80 days with a temperature of 90 degrees or higher, and, of these, 30, or 38 per cent, occurred in September. On two days only during this long record has the thermometer soared above 100 degrees, and both of these were in September. But high temperatures in San Diego are never accompanied by an excessive amount of water vapor, and in place of muggy, enervating weather we have ex-

tremely low relative humidities and brisk air circulation, and these rob the heat of its debilitation and give a sense of cooling to the body.

That many Septembers pass without a single hot day is a matter of record, attested to by the daily average maximum temperature, which is only 73 degrees. Likewise, nights are always mild; never cold; never hot; and with the mean minimum around 61 degrees, comfortable sleeping is assured.

The dry season is not yet passed, and, as the winter storms do not begin until November, precipitation most of the time is negligible. Occasionally, however, a storm of tropical origin moves northward from the Mexican coast, and then ill-timed rains, which damage late fruits and grapes, prevail in both mountain and littoral districts.

During periods of hot, dry weather, strong desiccating north and east winds blow for several days at a time, and when such visitations take place the fire hazard in the county is at its peak, for brush and trees offer ready fuel for the flames after the long dry summer.

An increase in the number of clear days and nights is the rule, and there is usually a break near the end of September in the persistent early morning and evening cloudiness of the coastal regions, so characteristic of our summers.

COMMITTEES FOR YEAR 1933-1934

The president of the San Diego Floral Association has appointed the following committees to serve for the coming year: House Committee Miss Alice Halliday, Mrs. Robert Morrison, Mrs. John Nuttall, Miss Etta Schwieder, Miss Laura Brewster, Mrs. Wendell Brant, Mrs. M. A. Greer; Program Committee, Mrs. Paul Tuttle, Mr. Walter Birch, Mrs. Robert Morrison, Miss K. O. Sessions.

NEW MEMBERS

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Mr. T. C. Spruit, Encinitas.
Mr. James MacPherson, Encinitas.
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Mr. W. S. Thomas, San Diego.

GARDEN CONTEST

The Fifth Annual Garden Contest closed with the final judging, August 31, 1933, following the spring judging.

The entries were divided into three classes and special awards were made for features of outstanding excellence.

The results of the judging are as follows:

LARGE GARDENS

First—Mr. W. J. Ogden.

Second—Mr. M. F. Heller.

Third—Col. F. M. Hinkle.

MEDIUM GARDENS

First—Mr. Julius Wangenheim.

Second—Mrs. Lester Bradley.

Third—Mrs. James Forward.

SMALL GARDENS

First—Mr. E. E. Maher.

Second—Mrs. H. A. Moody.

Third—Mr. Charles E. Hunt.

Best Civic Garden—Park Manor Apts.

Best Lawn—M. F. Heller.

Best Formal Pool—Julius Wangenheim.

Best Informal Pool—W. J. Ogden.

Best Small Lath House—E. E. Maher.

Best Specimen Tree—Julius Wangenheim.
(Metrosideros Tomentosa.)

Best Parking Treatment—Mrs. Lester J. Bradley.

Best Treatment of Walls—Julius Wangenheim.

Best Rose Garden—J. W. Ogden.

Best Hedge—F. M. Hinkle.

Best Annuals and Perennials—M. F. Heller.

The number of gardens entered was smaller than usual due to various facts.

First, former contestants who had won the prizes three times in succession were no longer eligible for the contest. Second, the temper of the times influenced some who formerly had made a fine showing. Owners faced by harassing problems which required close attention were unwilling to enter a garden which through diminished care might not be as effective as in former years.

Finally, the committee being inexperienced got away to a late start, which was regrettable but unavoidable.

Probably the members of the committee are echoing the suggestions of all previous committees when they urge an early organization of the entries for next spring judging. Before the fall planting is done, seems to be the logical time, so that owners may have time to work out a plan or scheme that can be carried through the season.

Of the fourteen gardens entered, two were judged not complete enough for competition.

The committee wishes to thank all those who entered the contest and to assure them of real appreciation for their efforts.

Along with the pleasure of viewing these many beautiful gardens, as a whole, were special treats which were aside from the technical part of the judging. There was the joy of looking at the beautiful specimen of podocarpus elongatus of the Wangenheim garden, which leans over the wall to hail the passersby in such a graceful, friendly way. It is encouraging to find young lusty specimens of this same tree appearing now in other gardens, a promise of future beauty.

It was a joy to share in the triumph of an owner who by bold action had saved a Royal Palm for the patio of the Park Manor. May this king of all the palms prosper and live to become an outstanding rare specimen.

A graceful gesture in a small garden was the screening of a clothes line by a fan-shaped trellis covered with a lovely climbing rose.

It was almost too good to be true to find lilies of the valley with perfect dark green foliage grown out of doors under the cinerarias. These were the achievement of Col. Anson Bolte, who is just rounding his first year of California gardening. Every one who saw these perfect flowers will be interested to learn whether it was a case of beginners' luck or a real victory in the face of the most unfavorable conditions.

These are only a few of the items which made two days of garden visiting so worth while.

Finally, with images of tree shapes, of green lawns, of brilliant color masses of flowers floating before the mind's eye in revolving kaleidoscopic patterns, to go home; to end the exhilarating day in quietness, reading in one of Gertrude Jekyll's thin books. Of flowers as a collection in a garden she says:

"This does not constitute a picture, and it seems to me that the duty we owe to our gardens and to our own bettering in our gardens is so to use the plants that they shall form delightful pictures; and that, while delighting our eyes, they should be always training those to a more exalted criticism; to a state of mind and artistic conscience that will not tolerate bad or careless combination or any sort of misuse of plants, but in which it becomes a point of honor to be always striving for the best."

Mrs. R. G. Pickard.

The Garden

By WALTER BIRCH

Most people interested in gardening in San Diego, realize that the next two months are the heavy seeding and planting months for winter and spring blooms, and as most of the seeds will be raised in seed boxes, and the plants set out later, it is timely just now to say a word about the preparation of the soil where the plants will grow, as it ought to be attended to at once, if it has not already been done, which of course would be preferable.

If possible, procure some well pulverized cow or sheep manure, and spread it several inches thick on the ground. If soil is very heavy add some garden lime to help break up and sweeten the soil, wet down thoroughly to a depth of two feet, and when dry enough to dig, turn manure under with a spading fork, digging to a depth of twelve or fourteen inches, leaving the surface in the rough, giving sun and air a chance to penetrate. In three or four weeks' time, cultivate to a fine surface, although a longer period of time is better. These directions apply in a general way for the preparation of the ground for the average run of flowering plants, and the fertilizing can be supplemented later on during the life of the plants by application of bone meal or other safe fertilizer, suitable to the particular variety of plants you are raising, the idea being that, no matter what you want to raise you should give some attention to the preparation of the ground and the supply of proper plant food. Otherwise, no matter how good your seed or plants may be you cannot expect really fine blooms.

Sowing flower seeds in the open ground is usually rather a risky business, owing to the fact that they are unprotected and exposed to all the changes of the weather, so it is much easier to either select a protected corner of the garden where you can make over the soil for seed bed purposes, or better still plant seed in flats in a lath house or airy out-building. If you haven't any flats you can probably get them at any nursery yard or seed store, or make them of convenient size and about three inches deep, using equal parts of good garden soil, sand and leaf mould or fine peat humus. Mix thoroughly and have mixture of uniform dampness,

fill flats to about one inch of the top and firm down. Of course mixture must be screened or otherwise treated so as to be of fine texture. Sow seeds, pressing lightly into the soil. In covering use sand, just enough to cover seeds, and water carefully with a fine spray, otherwise you will wash the seeds out, and be sure to keep an even moisture all the time or your seeds will not germinate.

After seedlings have made two or three leaves, they may be pricked off into another flat, and when ready to transplant to where they are to grow, be sure that they are sturdy and strong and then transplant carefully with a small ball of dirt. If you do not care to raise your own plants, they can be procured at any reliable seed store.

Of the many seeds that can be planted now, the following are some of the favorites: Cinerarias for shady locations, our Prize Mixture, which is Howard & Smith's well known strain, is the best on the market; the Stellata type is also fine, the flowers being smaller and the plants taller. Pansies—Swiss Giants and the Mastadon varieties largely raised in Oregon, are very fine. Calendulas grow very easily and bloom for many months, the Radio and Sensation types produce large flowers and are very popular, and will bloom from early spring on through the summer. Nemesis—a South African annual from nine to fifteen inches tall, is a most attractive bedding plant for late winter and spring blooming, with flowers of delicate shades of buff, orange, pink and other colorings. Snapdragons are less likely to be troubled with rust if they are seeded early. The Maximum and Majuf types are very fine and produce flowers of wonderful size and colorings. When transplanted from flats to where they are to grow, it is well to spray with Bordeaux Mixture, as soon as they have made a good start, to prevent rust. The large flowers come in shades of yellow, pink, rose, copper, terra cotta, claret, crimson, and others. Stocks—The best are the Early Giant Imperial or Bismark strain, growing from two to two and one-half feet, and blooming from winter for many months, their fragrance and beauty are unsurpassed. Lark-

spur—Double Stock Flowered is the popular type, tall, easy to grow and coming in many shades of beautiful colors. Aquilegia or Columbine—The Long Spurred varieties are the finest; plant them in shady locations. Coreopsis—Lanceolata, graceful long stemmed yellow flowers of good size, long bloomers, and fine for cut flowers. Delphinium—The Gold Medal Hybrids will give you many beautiful colors in shades of blue, including sapphire, turquoise, indigo and intervening shades, coming in long spikes of flowers. The Hollyhock type produces the largest flowers, growing to a height of five or six feet.

Sweet Pea planting is good all of this month and October. If you have not already prepared your Sweet Pea bed, and wish to sow the seed at once, use well rotted pulverized sheep or cow manure thoroughly mixed with the soil a few inches below the seed, being careful to have plenty of moisture to a depth of one and a half to two feet, planting seed in a furrow from four to six inches deep and covering seed one inch, and protecting young plants from the birds with light branches or wire netting, until they are strong enough to take care of themselves. Many people trench deeply, putting alternate layers of manure and soil, but for the average garden very satisfactory results can be obtained by deep spading and manuring, and then as your plants grow to a good size, supplementing your manure by an occasional light application of blood and bone, where the roots will gradually take it up. Some of the choicest varieties of the newer Sweet Peas are: Greeting, clear lavender; Peaches, bright apricot; Lady Gay, shrimp pink; Valencia, orange, with a long list of others to choose from.

There are many other Annuals and Perennials that can be planted now, and which will do better and produce earlier and better flowers if planted this month.

Do not delay in getting your first planting of early bulbs in. Freesias should be planted in shady locations, about three inches deep and four to five inches apart; the Super-flora, Golden Treasure and Splendens are all good, the first named being a large white, the second golden yellow and the last lavender. Tritonia Crocata should also go in, a very beautiful salmon pink bulbous flower which would be very much more planted if it were better known. Amaryllis Bella Donna is also an early bulb, very easy to grow. The large bulbs should be planted, leaving the top of the neck level with the surface of the ground. Calla Lilies and California grown Narcissi are better for

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early planting; the Northern grown Narcissi are not planted until October. Of the California Narcissi, Soliel D'Or is a favorite.

THE BOOK OF THE GARDEN

"The Book of the Garden," by Arthur Stanley (Ivor Nicholson & Watson, Ltd., London, six shillings) is, like many an English garden book, not to be taken lightly. There is real sustenance in it—something to mentally nibble on.

It is a pleasant and scholarly treatise on the development of garden history. A book about gardens already made, with a chapter on planning a new garden, one on getting the most out of color values and one on alpine thrown in.

There is valuable information about the early gardens of Asia and Europe and there are three interesting sections on Tudor and Elizabethan Gardens, Gardens of Oxford, and Gardens of Cambridge.

You will, of course, pounce upon the chapter on Gardening in America, which proves the weakest of the lot, lacking the depth and solid foundation of the other splendid chapters. The author has made a valiant attempt to be fair, but gives a rather muddled conception of American gardens, taken in part from Marion Cran's clever (but also rather muddled) book on the same subject.

LESTER ROWNTREE, Carmel, California.

THE AUGUST GARDEN VISIT

One always anticipates a visit to the Scripps lovely garden called Brae Mar as they do to brousing in one of Dicken's beloved volumes. Everything about the place is different than any other place ever thought of being. The huge palm trees that march so straight down the avenue lose some of their high and mighty air by the row of gay red blooming eucalyptus tripping beside them. When you get to the garden entrance there are so many paths leading to every direction that you close your eyes and murmur "My mother told me to take this one" and then you chose another which leads you along vine draped lath houses abloom with rare and colorful tuberous begonias and suddenly you enter a tiny replica of an English cottage in the front garden of which grow dainty English snapdragons, violas and other suitable plants. A path runs wildly from this spot to a rocky place and suddenly one is in a typical Mexican house with cacti, etc., as local color, then suddenly you see a straight path and get a glimpse of a beautiful formal garden with a marble fountain and all that makes a formal garden formal. Here one wanders to the left to greet the most lovely of our San Diego hostesses, Mrs. Fred Scripps, who is presiding at a bunch bowl in which is a fruit floral centerpiece frozen in ice. Leaving here we wander through a tropical jungle and enter a new rock garden with rocks of all sorts of weird shapes from flowers to animals—and look, over yonder is another formal garden within another and before we know it we are out of the garden and on the seashore wondering if Captain Kidd ever visited this spot and forgot his pirate ship which sits on-the sand. A flash of color draws us from the beach to a gay lawn setting of Italian pony carts and all sorts of things for children to adore. One thinks of the happiness that must radiate in this garden for all those fortunate enough to be intimate with the owners. Perhaps the outstanding flower is the fuchsia, Mrs. Scripps seemingly having a large and rare collection. Mrs. Alfred Robinson in fact had brought as a gift from the Rosecroft gardens a pot of a tiny new variety that looked like an exquisite lavalliere of amythest and pearls. There are many bright zinnias and dahlias in the garden at this season, of course. The San Diego Floral Association garden visits have been unusually interesting this year and it is significant that the first for the new year should be in the Scripps garden as the owners are always co-operative with the work of the organization.

C. B. F.

DID ELIJAH HAVE A GARDEN, TOO?

It all happened on a long ago Sunday afternoon when we were told our Bible stories. I remember a fine strong voice in the closing words for that afternoon, "and Elijah was fed by the ravens, my dears." I wondered but never asked, or if I did ask, I have no memory of having been told what the ravens found for Elijah to eat and where they found it. I remember believing that whatever and wherever the ravens got what they got for Elipah, it agreed with him, for we had been told that "he lived long years and waxed strong in good works."

Did you wonder what the ravens found for Elijah to eat and where they found it?

And is the wonder of your today the same as it was in the gone-by days? Or, have you seen, as I have seen, flocks of ravens clumsily flying over and alighting on large and seemingly unfertile fields, walking about and closely inspecting the ground, then laboriously rising and going on their way?

And do you think today, that the microscopic eyes of the ravens in the close inspection of the seemingly unfertile fields, found amazing news there and brought it to Elijah and that it was as food to the innermost mind of Elijah?

Do you believe that when Elijah had digested the amazing news the ravens brought him, that he could but wax strong in good works and thereafter do much investigating, with the help of the ravens?

The news was of another kingdom. Other than that of Elijah's or the ravens. It was of tiny green, elf-like creatures not more than an inch or two high, that naught but the microscopic eyes of the ravens had detected and that they, the dour and clumsy ravens, had been chosen to carry the precious substance that was,

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as food for Elijah, for very fear of its vibrations wrecking any less stable carrier?

Do you believe with me, that the picturesque tale might be symbolic and do you ask with me, of what is it symbolic?

Have you ever heard of Elijah's owning a garden? If he had he might have held converse in it with the ravens concerning their discovery and if it had been one of the swinging gardens of Babylon, what pictorial interest would have been added to that story of the long ago Sunday afternoon.

I would have loved the picture and I think you would have, too, though I like even better the picture in my own garden, of the Voices of my Children and perhaps might have said in a very few words, that as our dour and clumsy brothers had made their thrilling discovery and carried it to him who must have seemed a God, so you and I have made our lovely discoveries in our gardens, and carried the praise of them to the Maker of all Gardens.

So, after all's said, you and I only differ from Elijah in that we are not Prophets and neither have we an acquisitive raven to bring us our news.

MARY GREEN PAYSON.

August 4, 1933.

THE FLORIST BUSINESS

Edward A. White is professor of Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture at Cornell University. He has written a book (one of L. H. Bailey's Rural Science Series), which is proving and which will continue to prove a valuable reference book for gardeners.

Its title, "The Florist Business" (Macmillan, \$4.00) is misleading. Upon hearing it, plantmen who are not florists may shy off, thinking it is not for them.

Although several chapters are devoted to greenhouse treatment, which does not directly concern the average gardener, there are invaluable chapters on plant diseases and on insect control, propagating, the treatment of cut flower crops, both outdoors and in, and an especially helpful chapter on potted and specimen plants. This last contains information on many of our pet plants and should make particular appeal to those who go in for patio decorations.

"The Florist Business" is not one of those books one can take up and read through. It is too meaty. But it is a grand book to keep on your reference shelf.

LESTER ROWNTREE,
Carmel, California.

URGE PROMPT CONTROL FOR GLADIOLUS THIRPS

An ounce of prevention goes much farther than a pound of cure for thrips-infested gladiolus plants, say United States Department of Agriculture entomologists. The gladiolus thrips, a tiny insect barely visible to the naked eye, has recently become a serious menace to garden and greenhouse plants in many parts of the country.

The best way to control this pest, investigation shows, is to plant only corms that have been treated with naphthalene flakes, with hot water, or with a fungicidal dip, the method selected depending on individual conditions.

Prompt spraying may save growing plants from injury by thrips that accidentally escape bulb treatments or migrate from an outside source. If spraying is delayed until flower spikes appear little can be done to save the blooms. At the faintest sign of silvering, the first evidence of thrips activity, plants should be sprayed with a mixture of paris green (1 rounded tablespoonful) and brown sugar (2 pounds) in water (3 gallons). Spraying should be repeated each week until the flowers open.

Corm infestation may be reduced at harvest time by cutting off the tops of plants close to the corms, by taking care not to shake the tops over the bulbs, and by removing the corms from the field as soon after digging as possible. The corms should be stored in a cool place, preferably where the temperature is between 35 deg. and 40 deg. F. A wise precautionary sanitary measure is to destroy the tops of the plants after harvesting, as well as all discarded bulbs and other refuse removed from the stock in cleaning.

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